

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of November 17, 2004 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 11-20 are pending and these have been examined with the following results: claims 11, 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Adams et al.; and claims 13-17, 19 and 20 are objected to but indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The indicated allowability of claims 13-17, 19 and 20 is appreciated. Their present format will be retained, however, in view of applicant's belief that claims 11, 12 and 18 are not anticipated by Adams et al.

In rejecting claim 11 the examiner notes that "Adams et al. discloses a vibration absorber (e.g., backing 18 which dampens acoustic waves) (see col. 4, lines 46-47)." Applicants admit that backing 18 is a damping element; but not a vibration absorber as claimed in claim 11. The backing 18 of Adams et al. is situated in the housing 12 which also houses the sensor components. In fact, backing 18 is situated in the housing 12 with other "acoustically active elements." As noted by the examiner the backing 18 "dampens the acoustic waves transmittal from the top face of the crystal 15." In effect, the backing 18 is located in the sensor element unlike the present invention where the vibration absorber is "affixed to a wall of said electronics case." The difference is significant and certainly sufficient to negate anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102.

On page 3 of the present application vibration of the case is discussed along with its detrimental effects. The invention is aimed at neutralizing the effects of case vibration. A damper in the sensor would not serve this purpose. Accordingly, any damper in the sensor would not be contemplated by the invention defined in claim 11 or claims 12 and 18, which depend from claim 11.

U.S. Patent Appl. 10/693,606

New claim 21 has been submitted to complete the scope of protection to which the present invention is entitled.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and claims 11, 12, 18 and 21 allowed along with claims 13-17, 19 and 20.

Date: February 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
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